

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 JERUSALEM 2335

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJ: URQUHART'S MEETINGS WITH DAYAN AND WEIZMAN

REF: A BEIRUT 4845, B. JERUSALEM 2318

1. SUMMARY: URQUHART BELIEVES HIS MEETINGS WITH DAYAN AND WEIZMAN CLEARED THE AIR AND THAT BOTH UN AND GOI HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER'S PROBLEMS. ISRAELIS CONVINCED OF SYRIAN PLOT AND ADDUCED EVIDENCE THEREOF. WEIZMAN UNDERTOOK TO CONSULT EITAN AND HADDAD ON UNIFIL FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT. RE LAF DEPLOYMENT TO LEBANON, WEIZMAN WAS FORTH-COMING AND SAID HE THOUGHT HE COULD UNDERTAKE COMMITMENT CHRISTIANS WOULD NOT FIRE. DAYAN REMAINS EAGER FOR REINSTATEMENT OF ARMISTICE AGREEMENT ON TERMS PROPOSED BY GOI. END SUMMARY

2. URQUHART ASKED ME TO JOIN HIM AND AIME AT HIS HOTEL THIS
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MORNING JUST PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO BEIRUT. HE SAID PRESS HAD ACCURATELY DESCRIBED HIS AUGUST 21 TALKS AS "INCONCLUSIVE." HOWEVER, ATMOSPHERE IN SEPARATE TALKS WITH DAYAN AND WEIZMAN HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE AND BOTH SIDES HAD FRANKLY EXPLAINED THEIR PARTICULAR SET OF PROBLEMS AND PREOCCUPATIONS. ON BALANCE, URQUHART THOUGHT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE, SIILASVUO WOULD FOLLOW-UP AND HE REQUESTED US HELP.

3. IN MORNING MEETING WITH DAYAN, EVRON, ROSENNE, RONN AND GORDON, URQUHART DESCRIBED SYG'S SITUATION AT SOME LENGTH. UN DID NOT WISH TO APPEAR TO BE CRITICAL OF GOI. HOWEVER, UNIFIL MUST BE SEEN TO BE INDEPENDENT AND TO BE CARRYING OUT RESES 425 AND 426. UNIFIL COULD NOT BE PLACED IN LIGHT OF APPEARING TO COOPERATE WITH ISRAEL IN MAINTAINING PROXY OCCUPATION OF PART OF A MEMBER STATE. FACT WAS THAT HADDAD AND SHIDIAK, WITH ISRAELI SUPPORT, WERE PREVENTING UNIFIL FROM CARRYING OUT ITS MANDATE TO DEPLOY THROUGHOUT SOUTH LEBANON AND TO ASSIST GOL IN REASSERTING ITS SOVEREIGNTY. UNLESS GOI PRESSED CHRISTIANS TO ALLOW UNIFIL FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, UNIFIL WOULD LOSE ITS CREDIBILITY AND OPERATION WOULD UNRAVEL.

4. AS AMBASSADOR LEWIS HAD FOREWARNED URQUHART AUGUST 20, ISRAELIS DISPLAYED PREOCCUPATION WITH "SYRIAN PLOT," ISRAELIS SAID THEY WERE CERTAIN ROUTE CHOSEN THROUGH ENCLAVES AND SYRIAN MILITARY COOPERATION WAS PART OF A DEAL IN BEIRUT, ONE PART OF WHICH WAS TAKEOVER OF ENCLAVES AND ELIMINATION OF HADDAD. URQUHART SAYS HE REBUTTED THIS THESIS AND ASCRIBED KAWKABA IMPASSE TO GOL'S MISCALCULATIONS, IGNORANCE AND INEPTNESS. ISRAELIS WERE UNCONVINCED. LATTER SAID THEY WERE NOT ABOUT TO HAVE A CONFRONTATION BORDER WITH SYRIANS IN LEBANON AND THAT THEY WOULD "NEVER" ABANDON HADDAD.

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5. DAYAN SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN REVIVAL OF ARMISTICE AGREEMENT ON ISRAELI TERMS (I.E. GOL COMMITMENT TO RESTRAIN PALESTINIANS -- SOMETHING URQUHART BELIEVES GOL PATENTLY UNABLE TO DO.) URQUHART PROMISED TO CONVEY GOI'S INTEREST IN A MEETING WITH KHOURY, BUT IS NOT SANGUINE GOL WILL AGREE.

6. AFTERNOON MEETING WITH WEIZMAN, ZIPPORI, EITAN AND OTHERS COVERED MUCH OF THE SAME GROUND AS MORNING SESSION. URQUHART PRESSED HARD ON FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT. WEIZMAN WAS FRIENDLY BUT TIRED FROM HAVING BEEN INVOLVED NIGHT BEFORE IN RETALIATORY STRIKE ON BEIRUT CAMPS. HE SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS MATTER WITH EITAN AND HADDAD, WHOM HE HAD NOT SEEN IN SOME TIME, AND WOULD CONVEY ANSWER TO SIILASVUO WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY.

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7. UNEXPECTEDLY, ISRAELIS DID NOT MAKE A GREAT POINT OF THE "GOOD FENCE." WEIZMAN SAID WHEN UNIFIL EVENTUALLY DEPLOYED THROUGHOUT THE ENCLAVES, IT SHOULD REMAIN TWO KMS DISTANT FROM THE "GOOD FENCE." NO ASSURANCES WERE SOUGHT OR GIVEN.

8. AS IN MORNING MEETING, ISRAELIS ALLEGED SYRIAN PLOT. URQUHART AGAIN TRIED TO DISABUSE HIS INTERLOCUTORS OF WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO BE A FIXATION. FINALLY, EITAN PULLED OUT A REPORT OF A RECENT MEETING IN METULLA BETWEEN HADDAD, LTCOL MIZRACHI AND A LEBANESE LTCOL TEREZIAN, WHO IS A DEPUTY TO GENERAL KHOURY,S BROTHER. TEREZIAN SAID LAF BATTALION SENT TO KAWKABA WAS UNDER THE OPERATIONAL COMMAND AND CONTROL OF THE THIRD SYRIAN BRIGADE IN ABLAH. URQUHART SAYS THIS WAS MOST DAMAGING AND PLANS TO TASK BOUTROS, HOUYR AND TUENI WITH THIS REVELATION AUGUST 22.

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9. ON MOVEMENT OF LAF COMPANY TO TIBNIN, WEIZMAN IN HIS PRIVATE MEETING WITH URQUHART, WAS QUITE FORTHCOMING. WHEN PRESSED TO GIVE GUARANTEE CHRISTIANS WOULD NOT FIRE ON LEBANESE, WEIZMAN SAID, "I THINK I CAN UNDERTAKE TO DO THAT." HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH EITAN AND HADDAD. ISRAELIS ALSO SAID THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO HAVE IDF HELICOPTERS ACCOMPANY AIRLIFT IF THIS WOULD HELP MATTERS.

10. TO ME URQUHART EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION FOR USG EFFORTS IN BEIRUT, TEL AVIV AND ELSEWHERE. HE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED US FOLLOW UP WITH WEIZMAN ON MATTER OF UNIFIL FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT. HE INDICATED WALDHEIM WOULD PROBABLY ALSO SEND APPEAL TO BEGIN.

11. URQUHART SAID IF TIME PERMITS, HE WILL GIVE ME A READOUT ON HIS BEIRUT TALKS PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR EUROPE EARLY AUGUST 23.
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